

RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

Agenda of Monday, August 1, 2022 – 7 PM

Public Works, Marsden Room
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55112

Meeting location and materials are also available at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/charter-commission/charter-commission-agendas-and-minutes>.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chair Nancy Haas called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.
2. Roll Call Attendance: Completed by Sia Xiong.

District	Charter Commission Member	Present	Absent
1	Ann Maslansky-Takahashi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Steven Reeves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Ache Wakai	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Joann Knuth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Nancy Haas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Sallee Brandt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Bethany Winkels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Sharon Garth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Joshua (Josh) Ortiz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Sebastian Ellefson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Hoang Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Tony Parrish, Sr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	John O'Phelan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	William (Bill) Kempe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Angela (Angie) Thies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Jazmin Glaser-Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
At Large	Susan (Sue) Majerus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: Trista MatasCastillo, Chair – Board of Commissioners
Jennifer O'Rourke, Director of Government Relations

Also present: Jim Mogen, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office
Sia Xiong, County Manager's Office Admin.
Theng Yeng Xiong, County Manager's Office Admin.

3. Approval of August 1, 2022 Agenda: Motion by Hoang Murphy and second by Sue Majerus. Unanimously approved by all members present.
4. Approval of May 2, 2022 Minutes (Attachment): Motion by Hoang Murphy and second by Angie Thies. Unanimously approved by all members present.
5. Old Business:

- A. Welcome and Introductions: Started first with introductions before the approval of the agenda. Sia Xiong announced her transition out of the supportive role for the Charter Commission and Theng Yeng Xiong introduced herself as the new administrative support. Jim Mogen was also given the opportunity to introduce himself as the new legal advisor for the Charter Commission.

Because there was no quorum, Chair Haas sought guidance from Assistant County Attorney Jim Mogen around what the commission was able to do: commission cannot take action, but can approve minutes, and complete administrative actions.

- B. Compensation for Commission Members Update (Attachment): Sia Xiong shared that the compensation opt-in form for members was attached and members who were present may complete the form and hand it in at the end of the meeting. Any folks who are not present may complete the form electronically, since all members have it and may submit it via email. There was a reminder that this is completely voluntary, and if members opt-in, they will receive a \$25 gift card from the options available for every regular meeting they attend.

6. New Business:

- A. Announcement of Resignation of a District One Member and Declaration of Vacancy: Accepted the resignation of Steven Reeves, who submitted his resignation because he was moving out of the district. Chair Nancy Haas declared the vacancy for District 1. Motion by Angie Thies and second by John O'Phelan. Unanimously approved by all members present.
- B. Visit from Board of Commissioner Chair Trista MatasCastillo: Chair MatasCastillo highlighted major items that the County Board is working on:
- New strategic priority added to the 2022 Strategic Plan: *Responding to climate change and increasing community resilience*.
 - The county approves a two-year budget, there may be minor changes but because of no increase in levy, the budget will be tight. Presentations coming in September with opportunities for the public to attend and comment.
 - Good investments in youth and workforce development especially during COVID.
 - There will be work around organics in 2023, District 3 will have curbside organics with some piloting in the Fall of 2022. There is a goal to reduce carbon footprint, and that may involve changing or moving out of specific county buildings.
 - John O'Phelan asked about any updates on the golf course and Chair MatasCastillo replied that nothing is currently happening with the golf course. They are taking time to figure out next steps, but no money is needed for upkeep.
 - Angie Thies asked about Commissioner Carter and McDonough's retirement and for any watershed updates. Chair MatasCastillo shared how the watershed is very active. From an environmental perspective, no major changes from the county since water is based by city. Additionally, the two commissioners are retiring, but she is not sure how that will look like. With other districts and spots open, the composition will be different with new commissioners.
 - Angie Thies asked about the orientation process and suggested an opportunity for the new commissioners to attend a regular meeting. It seems that there is no formal or standard orientation/onboarding process for commissioners.
 - Hoang Murphy asked for an update on Boys Totem Town and her thoughts on

Transforming Systems Together. Chair MatasCastillo shared that nothing is happening at the moment, since the City of Saint Paul is focusing on other large projects. There is a pause on Boys Totem Town and what to do next. Regarding Transforming Systems Together, she feels confident in the progress and is trusting the process.

- C. Ramsey County Legislative Platform by Jennifer O'Rourke: Jennifer O'Rourke shared that 25 people cover Ramsey County at the legislature. The county received ARPA dollars from the federal government and although the county has only spent 10%, all of it has already been allocated, so there are plans for where the investments will be made.
 - Chair MatasCastillo also shared that there will be ongoing work to for violence prevention and co-responding models. There was a follow-up question from John O'Phelan on what is considered "spent", so additional information will be shared to clarify via email through the Chief Clerk's Office. There was additional discussion around bonding and budgets, specifically what administrative fees for ARPA are and how much is actually invested into the community.
- D. Annual Election: Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair: Chair Nancy Haas asked if anyone would be interested in being part of the nominating committee, she would like to nominate Sue Majerus to be the chair of the committee. Sue Majerus was agreeable and requested the Chief Clerk's Office provide email and phone numbers of all current members. If anyone is interested in serving, contact Sue Majerus.
- E. Bylaws Review (Attachment): Assistant County Attorney Jim Mogen reviewed the bylaws and was able to provide some recommendations and comments based on the proposed changes from the previous meeting. He walked through each of his comments. Chair Nancy Haas recommended all members review Jim Mogen's document and provide questions or other comments.

7. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget: Vice Chair Angie Thies shared that they are holding a meeting in late August or early September, based on the budget schedule.
- B. Charter Review: Chair Nancy Haas shared that member Sebastian Ellefson is hoping to have the charter reviewed by the October meeting. The goal is to review and discuss this year and bring results next year based on notes from previous conversations.

8. Citizen Input (Approximately 8:30 PM): No public attendees to provide citizen input.

9. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Ramsey County Budget Presentation
- B. Budget Committee Input on Budget
- C. Robert's Rules Workshop for New Members

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022 – 7 PM

Location information will be posted three days prior to each meeting date.

Respectfully submitted by Sia Xiong, County Manager's Office Admin.